

CACHS Connection

Striving for excellence through Christ

ISSUE 9
FALL 2017



HIGHLIGHTS

Teaching Staff at CACHS

Alumni Tournament Updates

Alumni Stories

Graduation Class of 2017

Follow CACHS on Facebook for more photos, news, and upcoming events!

CACHS Connection is now online!

The “CACHS Connection” will be distributed online.

With the frequent increases in postage, we find our communication costs steadily rising. We also realize that for many people, email is a much-preferred method of communication.

The ‘Alumni Newsletter’ is available on the CACHS website and on our Facebook page.

Connecting CACHS with over 800 ALUMNI

Farewell to our Principal

After 26 faithful years as a teacher, Vice Principal, Principal, coach and mentor, Mr. Brandsma moves on from CACHS to a new chapter in his career. We wish him and Sandra many blessings!

Here are some of his reflections on his time at CACHS.



“To be able to work together with a group of people who were selfless in their desire to bless and guide was something I will never forget.”

How did you find your way to CACHS?

Upon completing my university training I found my first teaching job at Red Deer Christian School in junior high which was not my first choice, but it was a start. I had three terrific years with that school and loved the Central Alberta community, however my heart desired to teach at the secondary level in the areas of mathematics and physical education. I decided that spring to seek out employment at any Christian High School in Western Canada and had my resumes completed in envelopes ready to be sent out to Victoria, Abbotsford, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge etc. I then noticed an advertisement that this very small high school just a little north of us in Red Deer was expanding to grade 12 and was looking for a high school teacher in Mathematics and Physical Education. My wife and I loved our community in Red Deer and although I was concerned about a school in portables, I really felt called to apply for this position and so all those other applications were filed away and I just applied for the CACHS position. Ella Land, Jack Vandropol, and a few others interviewed me in the portable behind LCS, and I was very encouraged as well in being told that a new building was being put up and would be ready for the fall. I have never regretted this decision and remain thankful for the wonderful twenty-six years at the school.

How did you see the school change over the years?

Aside from growth in numbers, the school has developed a culture of excellence in a number of areas. Academics have been a focus for our school as well as athletics and I would suggest the assembly times have been terrific as well. In addition we have created a community between the staff and students that has blessed us richly. It is like a family where the reunions have increased in size and diversity and yet remain grounded in a communal experience. One area that has also changed is our reputation within the province. We are known through our programs in Lacombe and Ponoka in particular but also throughout the Central Zone and I would suggest the province. Good things are happening at CACHS and this is recognized in a broad context.

Describe your roles over the years.

In some ways my role has changed significantly over the years in the school, although perhaps this is more of a development. Mr. Vandropol was an outstanding leader in encouraging and allowing each of us teachers to take leadership roles at the school. Whether this was in the development

Continued...

of programs, clubs, or committees, we always felt the opportunity and encouragement to be a part of the foundation at CACHS. As our school growth happened, we were able to add staff and therefore our teaching assignments changed as well but these were minor.

I entered into leadership 10 years ago as a Vice-Principal and this was a terrific training time in preparation for succeeding Mr. Vandenpol after his retirement. While this was a change, there was constancy in my time still teaching math and being an active coach during each of my years.

Are there any memories that stand out?

This is the hardest question to answer as there are so many and as I explore these times, I tend to focus on just one aspect that is not an accurate reflection of the myriad available. I will try but I apologize for those I've forgot to mention.

Students – There are so many faces and stories connected here and each year brought new ones that are such a blessing. I can still remember those first classes the most vividly, as these were foundational years for me as a teacher and also for our school. This is where the athletics programs, the assembly times, the retreat practices were developed and are highlights for me. I can recall math classes and students who excelled and struggled in my courses with equally fond memories as I always strived to make the course enjoyable.

Athletics – Volleyball in particular has brought me so much joy, not just for the championships but the relationships that grew much stronger due to the journey together. It was a blessing to be able to coach both boys and girls for many years. The girl's miracle run in the fall of 2004 at provincials where we finished with a silver medal was one I will never forget.

Worship teams – Throughout the years we have been blessed by student led worship and to this day as we sing a song, I find myself drawn back to assemblies where we learned this song. While we welcomed excellence in musical gifts, it was the "heart" of worship and service that truly touched my heart.

Staff – While I have enjoyed each and every teacher I had the pleasure to work with, there was a core group of us who worked together for many years, each with our particular skill set, yet with a common shared goal in serving the needs of our students in as many areas as possible. To be able to work together with a group of people who were selfless in their desire to bless and guide was something I will never forget. I trust that in my new school in Salmon Arm, I will once again find such a dedicated group of humble servants.

Thank you CACHS community for the twenty-six incredible years you have given me and my family.

Know that you continue to be in our prayers and Sandra and I ask that you do pray for us as well.

2007 CLASS REUNION



In September 2017, the Class of 2007 held their 10-year reunion. The event was held at Sandra (Hoogenboom) Mulder's.

From left to right in the picture:
Dirk Berman, Justine (Otten) Veldman,
Marten Florijn, Sandra (Hoogenboom)
Mulder, Mareissa (Publicover)
Christman & Katelyn Hughes.

SEPTEMBER 2017

The class of 1997 held a 20 year reunion. What an example of God's faithfulness! From left to right in the picture:

Back row: Marcia (Feitsma) Vreugdenhil, Margreet (Bouwman) Dijkstra, Trevor Roos, Wiebe Buruma, Grant Zuidhof
Front row: Ron Bennik, Angela (Meyer) Bennik, Kimberley (Canning) Roos, Rebecca (Duggan) Cornall, Lennie Land, Ben Meyers, Hans DiGier



CLASS OF '97

It is never easy to
say goodbye...

Wishing you
many blessings
this coming year!

Mrs. Sandra Brandsma



A difficult
goodbye...

Introducing CACHS' new Teacher...

Mr. Kyle VanStryland



Thank you for welcoming me and my family into the CACHS community! I grew up in Ottawa, Ontario; but with connections to the Lacombe area, since my father grew up East of town. I graduated with my BA in History and Classical Studies from the University of Ottawa in 2010, and earned my BEd, with a mathematics minor from Kings in 2012. For the past 5 years, I have taught with the Koinonia School board, where I taught all of the core subjects, as well as many options classes. In 2015, I got married to my wonderful wife, and in 2016 we welcomed our first son into the world. In addition to teaching math and other subjects, I look forward to starting up a music program here at CACHS. It is my prayer that it will be yet another way that our students can Worship their Lord.



Welcome to our new Principal, Mr. Pete Hoekstra

"It is with confidence that we can do our work, make the big and small decisions, sit down to our meals and enjoy our moments of rest, knowing that God will guide and provide all that we need if we remain faithful. To me, the story of CACHS is the story of God's faithfulness to a community committed to operating a school whose first task is not to teach, but to proclaim to the world the "name that is above every name" (Phil 2:9)."

May 2017

For many years the green space behind Central Alberta Christian High School was used as an off leash dog park, and RV storage. In 2015, the CACHS school community decided to turn the area to the intended purpose, a multi-sport field. The process took much work and time. For months the ground was tilled, the soil was moved, pounded, compacted, seeded, fertilized, and rolled.

It was a big day when the green hue appeared on the land--finally grass! Because the pitch must be given time to grow, mature and settle the field could not be used for 18 months.

With the City of Lacombe building a new soccer complex and the old soccer field at Michener Park being converted into baseball field, a couple of old soccer goals were made available to CACHS. After picking up the old goals at Michener Park, they were sent off to Pro-line Manufacturing to be sandblasted; powder coat painted, and made to look brand new!

On Friday April 21, 2017, the CACHS KNIGHTS Boys team played their first home soccer match on the new pitch--a boys' soccer exhibition game between the LCHS Rams and CACHS Knights!

CACHS Sports Field

Alumni Tournaments 2016

CACHS held two ALUMNI tournaments during Christmas Break; Volleyball and Basketball



Alumni Basketball Tournament Update:

Written by Veronica Den Oudsten;

On December 10, 2016, CACHS held the "2nd Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament". Many enthusiastic players, both alumni and current came to participate for the day. The unbiased coaches created fair and equitable teams, and then the fun began. The pace of play started fast, and then the old guys wore down. No one remembers who won, but we do remember that it was an enjoyable day of conversation interspersed with lots of running and shooting. We look forward continuing on this tradition. If you like playing basketball, you are invited to join us in 2017.

Volleyball Tournament Update:

Written by Colleen VanderSchee

On Dec. 17, 2016, CACHS held their "8th Annual Alumni Volleyball Tournament". There were 12 teams participating, which included both former players, and the present day CACHS girls and boys teams.

Even though a number of alumni had not been on the court as much as they used to be, their talent was still very much evident. The current CACHS teams showed their skill as well as they also won their share of games. This allowed spectators to enjoy watching some very competitive volleyball throughout the day.

Aside from the volleyball, alumni enjoyed reuniting with past teammates, and for parents it was great to reminisce.

This year's alumni volleyball tournament will be held Dec. 22&23. More info to come. If you have any questions please phone Colleen at [403-885-4388](tel:403-885-4388) or email lc.schee@gmail.com.



CACHS Industrial Arts Program Update

On Monday, October 2nd a special Society meeting was held to decide whether CACHS should proceed with the construction of a shop facility to house an Industrial Arts program. After a time of prayer and discussion, a motion to build such a facility was passed. The Lord willing, the shop will be completed in time for the beginning of the 2018/19 school year. A drive in support of this project will begin shortly. The society covets your prayers and support for this exciting initiative!

Thank You to the Building Blocks Thrift Store!

Building Blocks is a non-profit thrift store in Lacombe, Alberta. Proceeds go to the Central Alberta Christian High School and Lacombe Christian School.



ALUMNI Stories

Kristen Visscher, Alumni 2002

"Even though CACHS is a small school, I feel strongly that it prepared me for my further University education."

My name is Kristen (Dysktra) Visscher and I was a part of CACHS graduating class of 2002. It's crazy to think that it has been 15 years since graduation! A lot has happened in those years.

Immediately after high school, I moved to Edmonton to attend The King's University College. I completed my 3-year Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science followed by a two year Early Education Degree. While I was at King's I played volleyball for the Eagles for 3 years. At TKUC I met my husband Dustin Visscher. After graduating, we got married and moved back to his hometown of Chemainus, BC; located on Vancouver Island. I started my first job at Duncan Christian School teaching grade 1, followed by a few years of teaching grade 4. In 2010, opportunities led me to teach grade 5 at Nanaimo Christian School. In 2011, we welcomed our first child Wyatt, who is currently attending Kindergarten at Duncan Christian School. In 2014, Marty joined our family followed by Indy, this past September 2016.



I feel very blessed and fortunate to have 3 beautiful, healthy children. We love spending time outdoors exploring the Island and doing chores on our hobby farm. I am currently a stay-at-home mom; however I keep my feet in the teaching scene by working for a Christian homeschooling program called Regent Christian Online Academy. As of right now, I am a Home Learning Support Teacher however in September I will also be teaching Science, Social Studies and Language Arts to a K-7 group of RCOA students once a week.

I look back fondly on my memories at CACHS; from the quality of education, Christian's ethics, and loving support of the teachers, volleyball tournaments, and great friends that I made. Even though CACHS is a small school, I feel strongly that it prepared me for my further University education. CACHS was a blessing to me and I know it will continue to be a blessing to many students throughout the years!

Ronald and Erica Vanden Pol, Class of 2003

May 2017

Wow! I can't believe it is already 14 years since I graduated in 2003 and since then a few things have happened.

After high school I continued my illustrious career at McDonald's, along with my high school friends Jason Roadhouse and Matthew Hainsworth, as I had all not realized what I wanted to do quite yet. After a few months of that, I realized I should probably be doing something else. The following September I started at Red Deer College and I spent my evenings, once again, working at McDonald's (It's hard to say no to the flexible schedule and half price food) and my summers working at a couple different greenhouses. After a few years I landed a summer job working with kids at the Ellis Bird Farm near Lacombe, which inspired me to pursue a career as a teacher.

After my first summer at the Ellis Bird Farm, I applied to the Education department at Red Deer College. I didn't mind it, but I really found myself being drawn more toward Christian education, so I transferred to The King's University the following year. There I received my Bachelor of Arts and my Bachelor of Education and met my wonderful wife, Erica :)

While Erica finished off her own Education Degree, I spent a year working at Lighthouse Christian Academy in Sylvan Lake. We got married in the summer after she graduated, and accepted teaching positions at Fort McMurray Christian School. We moved in the summer of 2011 and haven't looked back since. It has been a great experience and a blessing to be able to work together at the same school. Erica teaches grade 3, while I teach grade 6.

One of the fun things about being a teacher is the fact that I actually got to substitute teach a few time at CACHS before I was hired in Fort McMurray. It was a fun and interesting experience sitting on the other side of the classroom. I also still get to see most of my old CACHS teachers at the Christian School Teacher's Convention every year (I still call them by their last names, though).

A few years after I started working in Fort McMurray I decided to continue my learning, so I started my Master's in Education. It was interesting trying to manage being a teacher and a student at the same time, but I was able to learn a lot and after a couple of years I earned my Master's degree! That felt like quite the accomplishment, until last year, on June 1st, when my wife gave birth to our son Reuben Albert Vanden Pol. I thought I had trouble finding balance between life and work before, but he has turned it all up on its head. I absolutely love being a father and I am excited to see him grow up, but boy is he a busy kid. Just like his dad. :)



While Reuben's birth was a wonderful blessing it did not happen quite how we had planned. On May 3rd, Erica and I were evacuated from Fort McMurray because of the wildfire. We were both at school when the call came to evacuate. Since we were together, and felt relatively safe, we stayed with our principal and a few other staff members until all the kids were picked up. We then hopped in our car and tried to head home to pick up a few things before leaving the city. After a couple hours we had only made it about a kilometer away from the school. At that point we could see flames on the horizon and were soon directed by police to head in the opposite direction and out of the city. We spent the next 3 months in Edmonton after finding out our house had been lost to the fire. It was hard to believe our home was gone, however once we got over the shock of the loss we were able to see some silver linings. We were blessed to be closer to family and have extra time together as a couple getting to know Reuben and adjusting to life as parents. We have since returned to Fort McMurray and look forward to moving back into our rebuilt home this fall.

As I look back at my years at CACHS and where my life has gone since then I am so grateful for my time and experience in high school. Being part of a Christian school my whole life has taught me to value Christian education. I have come to realize what a blessing Lacombe Christian School and CACHS are, even more so as a teacher. Both of these schools are outstanding education systems that give a great faith-based experience for all students that come into their buildings. They both do such an incredible job and are terrific examples to the rest of the Christian schools in Alberta. I know in my life, including last spring, I have needed to rely on my experiences at CACHS that helped teach me how to trust God in every circumstance. I know that as I grow in my faith, I will continue to lean on the foundation built up by my Christian schooling and I am so thankful for it.

... "we could see flames on the horizon and were soon directed by police to head in the opposite direction and out of the city."



Attention all CACHS Alumni...

Do you have a story to share?

I would love to hear from you.

Contact Cindy Ekkel, Development Officer- cekkel@cachs.ca

Danielle Boschman (Bennik) *Class of 2004*

"I appreciate and am thankful that I can bring my children to a school, much like CACHS, where God's grace is lived and taught."



It's hard to believe that, as of this year, I have been OUT of grade school for nearly as long as I was in. My time at CACHS was the grand finale to those years, and when given the chance to reminisce with an old schoolmate, it is always with a sense of fondness and thankfulness. It was a blessing to have a supportive staff and group of friends during my time there.

Artsy to the core, and not having a volleyball bone in my body (sorry Mr. B!) I wandered the halls of CACHS not quite sure where I'd end up. Having my own fantastical ideas of my future, and resisting all efforts to make me like Math and Science, I stuck with the arts. Mrs. Ten Hove and Mr. Hoekstra were always fast to encourage me in these areas. I will always be thankful that, even when there was no allotted time in the day, creativity flourished, and ART 10/20/30 were all completed at my time at CACHS, even without a working studio or staff.

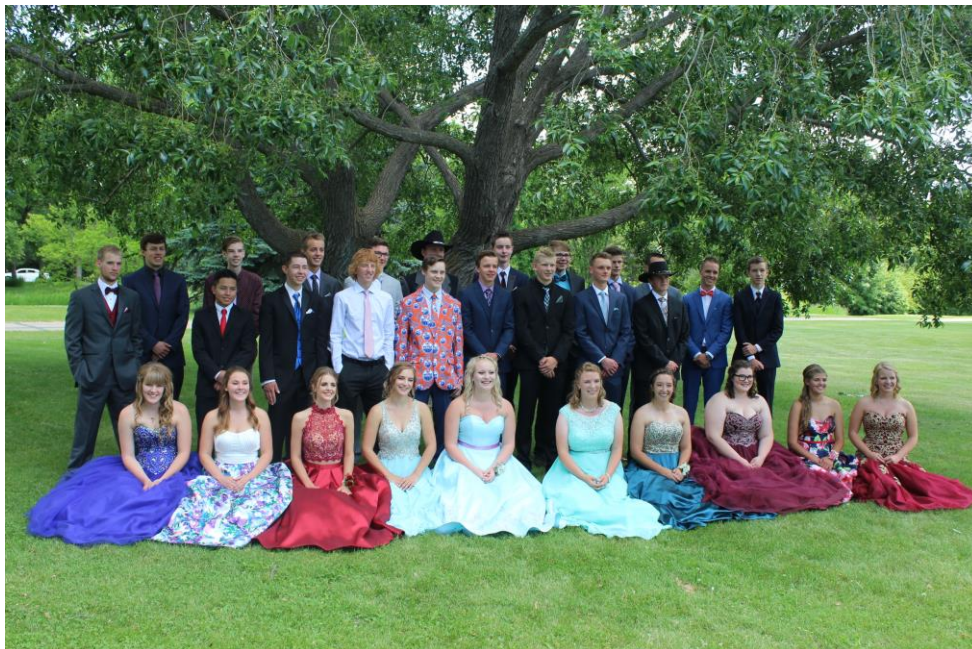
I haven't moved far from my high school stomping grounds, and ultimately ended up exactly where I went the year after graduating: Edmonton. Attending The King's University in 2005, I met many new friends, and through those friends I met my now husband, Ben Boschman; an Edmonton Christian High School alumni. Ben still runs in a circle of ECHS sports fanatics and, although I'm happy in my current community, I still feel a rush of pride when his friends mention the CACHS volleyball powerhouse, and their inability to defeat the Knights.

Ben and I have been married 7 years in October, and we have 2 beautiful children. Everett, 4, and Jocelyn, 2, are my early morning alarm clock and the reason I now stay at home full time. They are both, incidentally, puzzle geniuses, and I have an inkling they will be really great at mathematics, just like their dad. Ben works as a Firefighter for the City of Edmonton and, although I have worked in various vocations, from opticianry, interior design, and children's book illustrator, I find myself in a season of life called motherhood, which is my primary focus for now.

With Everett already attending preschool at Edmonton Christian School, and Jocelyn up next, I appreciate and am thankful that I can bring my children to a school, much like CACHS, where God's grace is lived and taught.



Congratulations to the Class of 2017



*Colsen Bajema
 Myah Bajema
 Jonathan Bell
 Janna Bernatsky
 Rebecca Cameron
 Mark Dewit
 Mitchell Doornbos
 Russell Ebens
 Josh Folkerts
 Brooklyn Forsyth
 Shelby Goedhart
 Cayleigh Haagsma
 Maxwell Holoboff
 Aaron Leshar
 Trevor Luymes
 Meghan Penner*

*Rachel Rodenburg, Bo Say, Kyle Scholing, Kayla Swier, Jesse Talsma, Taylor Tenhove, Jenna Ubels,
 Nicholas Van Doesburg, Riley Vandeborn, Ryan Vanderlinde, Spencer Vanderschee, Darin Wierenga,
 Walther van Ginkel, Rick van de Velde*

THANK YOU

CACHS Catering



**CACHS Catering provides a catering service for many functions.
 Please contact Emma at 403-782-2657 for your booking today!**

CACHS Catering is a group of dedicated volunteers who raise funds to purchase items for the school. CACHS Catering has helped the school purchase computers, SMART board, and sports team uniforms. Purchasing these necessary items helps keep the cost of tuition down.